

Minutes for July 16, 2021 Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting

Call to Order -- Commissioner Eric Tucker, Chair, called the meeting to order. The Committee approved the minutes from the June 18th meeting.

Financial Aid Policy Update Regarding Selective Service – Ms. Emma Fedorchuk, CDHE, provided Commissioners with an update on a forthcoming CCHE consent item that would change existing CCHE policy that requires students be registered for Selective Service where applicable in order to receive state funded financial aid. Recent federal legislation removed this requirement for federal aid and the federal Department of Education is beginning early implementation of the policy. Staff is proposing this requirement be removed to align with federal policy; a separate statute requiring Selective Service registration as an admissions requirement will not be impacted.

FY 2022-23 Capital Construction and IT Projects – Ms. Ashlee Pate, CDHE, provided an overview of the amount of capital construction and capital IT project submissions for FY2022-2023 including the overall dollar amounts. She went over the timeline for the process and discussed new scoring criteria presenting the possibility of more appeals. The Commissioners were concerned about the new scoring demonstrating enough objectivity and discussed wanting to score 3 themselves which Commissioner Meyer volunteered for. The Commissioners also requested an overall total from last year that was approved through the governor's office as well as where on the list of priority projects were approved. This information was sent to them after the meeting, along with 3 institution submissions (not including Mesa) for Commissioner Meyer to score on his own.

Financial Aid Review Process Update – Ms. Lauren Gilliland, CDHE, reviewed a proposed timeline for the financial aid allocation methodology review process. The end target is a full CCHE vote to approve new allocation methodologies for the Colorado Student Grant, Colorado Graduate Grant, and Colorado Work Study programs at their February 2021 meeting. Commissioners suggested the Department bring in a couple national experts on the topic to present at a joint meeting between the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee and Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee. Ms. Gilliland then reviewed Staff's initial thoughts on principles and considerations for the process, and asked Commissioners if they wanted to add anything. Commissioners suggested adding transparency, outcome accountability and student focus to the principles, recommended removing stability as a top priority, and encouraged staff to engage in early and frequent stakeholder engagement.

Steps 1/3 of the Funding Formula Update – Mr. Jason Schrock, CDHE, provided an update on the work on a CCHE funding formula recommendation for FY 2022-23. The Department has been working with institutions on developing a funding recommendation for the Commission. The recommendation will be based on the language that was approved by the Commission in June stating that the formula should first fund base cost increases through Step 2 of the formula, and that additional funding in Step 1 should be focused on closing equity gaps as the policy goal. The Governor's budget office, OSPB, has indicated that it needs to have a recommendation on the formula by the end of August.